Hindi Salahakar Samiti in Ministry of Environment and Forests

233. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD; Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Hindi Salahakar Samiti re-constitutcd last in the Ministry;

(b) the number of sittings of the Samiti held during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the efforts made to conduct meetings regularly?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Hindi Salahakar Samiti was reconstituted on 30th August, 2000. During the last three years one meeting of Hindi Salahakar Samiti was held on 20th July, 1999. Effort arc underway to convene the meeting shortly.

Direction to HP Government to protect forests

234. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has stressed the need for implementation of laws to protect forests;

(b) whether Government have issued some instructions to the Himachal Pradesh Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Government of India has instructed Government of Himachal Pradesh for strict and faithful implementation of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and implementation of laws to protect the forests.

(d) Does not arise.

Enquiry into death of lions and tigers in Nandankanan Park

235. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in pursuance of the enquiry report relating to death of a large number of lions and tigers in Nandankanan Biological park earlier this year, the lions and tig*rs from that zoo have been shifted to other zoos;

(b) if so, the details of action taken in the light of the inquiry report; and

(c) whether any further casualty of lions4igers took place in the course of transport or rehabilitation or otherwise since the Nandankanan incident?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the enquiry report relating to death of large number of tigers in Nandankanan Biological Park, Central Zoo Authority issued directions for transfer of 12 Tigers and 15 Lions from Nandankanan Biological Park to other zoos in the country. Of these 7 Tigers and 6 Lions were transferred to Vishakhapatnam Zoo of Andhra Pradesh. During the process of transport one Lion died. This hampered the process of the transfer of remaining Lions and Tigers. State Government has now agreed to transfer these animals to other zoos.

(c) Except the one Lion which died during the process of transport no deaths of lion or tiger have been reported in Nadankanan Biological Park after July 2000.